

1 THE TREATMENT OF DERMAL TUMORS, WARTS, AND VIRAL INFECTIONS OF
2 THE RESPIRATORY TRACT IN HUMANS USING HEAT-KILLED *P. ACNES*

3 Field of the Invention

4 The present invention relates to methods to treat viral infections, dermal tumors, and warts in
5 humans using heat-killed bacterial compositions. Specifically, it relates to the subcutaneous or
6 intralesional administration of heat-killed *Propionibacterium acnes* (*P. acnes*), to treat dermal tumors
7 and warts, and to the oral administration of heat-killed *P. acnes* to treat virus induced infections of the
8 respiratory tract in humans.

9 Background of the Invention

10 The maintenance of a healthy and competent immune system is a prerequisite for resistance to
11 and elimination of infectious and neoplastic diseases. Bacteria and their derivatives were among the first
12 substances to be recognized as immunostimulators and are used as adjuvants in vaccines to boost the
13 humoral immune response (*e.g.*, complete Freund's adjuvant). Bacteria have also been used as non-
14 specific enhancers of the immune system to increase resistance and rejection of cancers, parasites, and
15 infectious organisms.

16 Gram positive, whole-cell bacteria such as *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Propionibacterium*
17 *avidum*, *Propionibacterium lymphophilum*, *Propionibacterium granulosum*, *Corynebacterium*
18 *parvum* and *Arachnia propionica*, when inactivated have been shown to be potent non-specific
19 immune stimulants in animals and humans. Specifically *Propionibacterium acnes* (*P. acnes*) has been
20 shown to stimulate antineoplastic activity, adjuvant activity, antiviral activity, antibacterial activity, and to
21 stimulate hematopoiesis.

22 Preparations of *P. Acnes* have been shown to act as non-specific stimulators of immunogenic
23 responsiveness in vivo. *P. Acnes* is known to act by stimulating macrophages and neutrophils, initiating
24 endogenous production of lymphokines (including IL-2 and various interferons), and enhancing killer
25 cell activity. The intranasal inoculation of mice with *P. acnes* has been shown to activate pulmonary
26 macrophages (Jackson RA, et al., *J Leukoc. Biol.*, 40(5):575-87, 1986). At the cellular level, *P.*
27 *acnes* acts upon monocytes and lymphocytes and improves the functional interaction between these
28 cells (M.T. Scott, *Cell Immunol.*, 17:141, 1975).

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1 *P. acnes* also functions as an immune adjuvant to weakly antigenic substances. These
2 properties, while not completely understood, play an important role in regulation of the immune
3 response. One mode of the interaction of inactivated *P. acnes* with the immune system is through its
4 stimulation of the reticuloendothelial system (RES), *i.e.* liver, spleen, lymph nodes, lungs, and bone
5 marrow (C. Adlam, and M.T. Scott, *J. Med Microbiol*, 6:621 (1973), N.H. McBride *et al.*, *Cell*
6 *Immunol.*, 7:290 (1973)).

7 This activity elicits enhanced resistance to bacterial and viral infections, and also to certain
8 tumors. The mode of action appears to be the activation of macrophages followed by the recruitment
9 of lymphocytes. The particulate nature of *P. acnes* appears important for macrophage activation.
10 Unlike some synthetic biological response modifiers (BRM's), bacteria *in vivo* are fully degraded and
11 catabolized in the body without the formation and excretion of toxic metabolites or retention of
12 residues. This has obvious therapeutic advantages for *P. acnes*. and contributes to the therapeutic and
13 prophylactic use of *P. acnes* against infectious diseases.

14 In animals, stimulation of the immune system results in short term protection against infection
15 with certain viruses and bacteria. Used therapeutically in animals with chronic skin and respiratory
16 disease, *P. acnes* shortens the course of the disease.

17 The anti-tumor activity of *P. acnes* has been studied in mice and other animals. Tumor cells
18 injected into Balb/c mice together with heat-killed *P. acnes* cells were rendered nontumorigenic
19 (Murano EA, *et al*, *Cancer Immunol Immunother*, 29(1):7-16, 1989). The preventive effect of *P.*
20 *acnes* on metastasis in mice rendered tolerant to tumor-associated transplantation antigens (TATA) has
21 been detailed (Fujiwara H, *et al* , *Gann*, 71(5):692-8, 1980). Heat-killed suspensions of several *P.*
22 *acnes* strains were prepared and studied for their protective activity against viral infections in mice and
23 for their immunomodulating properties (Zgorniak-Nowosielska I, *et al*, *Arch Immunol Ther Exp*
24 *(Warsz)*, 37(3-4):431-42, 1989).

25 There has been considerable data collected on the use of *P. Acnes* in domestic animals. In a
26 randomized study conducted for the treatment of equine respiratory disease (ERDC), complete
27 recovery within a 14 day period was observed in horses treated intravenously with *P. acnes* (D. R.
28 Evans *et al.*, *Equine Practice*, 10:17, 1988; C.D. Vail *et al.*, *Vet. Review*, Nov/Dec: 399, 1990).

1 Additionally, inactivated *P. acnes* has also been shown to be a biological response modifier for
2 treatment of non-specific respiratory diseases in horses where upon administration of *P. acnes* it was
3 shown that CD4+ lymphocyte expression and lymphokine activated killer cell (LAK) activity increased
4 (Flaminio MJ, *et al*, *Vet Immunol Immunopathol*, 63(4):303-15, 1998).

5 In a randomized, double blinded, placebo controlled study, dogs with a significant skin disease
6 (chronic recurrent pyoderma) were treated with antibiotics plus *P. acnes* with significant improvement
7 or complete remission of the lesions (A. Becker *et al.*, *J. Vet Intern. Med.* 13:26 (1989)).

8 *P. acnes* has been extensively used as a veterinary therapeutic in cattle with papilloma (warts)
9 where the warts had been intralesionally injected with *P. acnes* (H. Hall *et al.*, *Therapeutic*
10 *Immunology*, 1:319, 1994). While, lesions in the control group which were injected with saline
11 showed no regressions at the end of 16 weeks, 100% of the injected lesions in the treatment group had
12 completely regressed at the end of 16 weeks.

13 Use of *P. acnes* in humans has, in general been limited to treatment of neoplastic diseases and
14 pleural effusions with some limited success. Additionally, *P. acnes* has been administered orally in the
15 rations of food production animals to promote better health through cell-mediated immunity and weight
16 gain (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/912,026). It has been used experimentally in people to
17 treat various cancers, plural effusion and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It has been used
18 experimentally as an adjuvant with vaccines.

19 Based on these findings, a veterinary preparation of *P. acnes* was used as an injectable
20 therapeutic agent against plantar warts caused by the human papilloma virus. However, significant pain
21 upon injection was observed caused due to the alcohol content of the preparation. Thus, a preparation
22 of *P. acnes* is needed that causes the regression of warts and dermal tumors in humans, but which may
23 be administered without undue pain or harm to the patient. Additionally, this preparation must be
24 administered via a route that allows regression of the warts while minimizing pain to the patient .

25 Although *P. acnes* has been used to treat respiratory diseases in horses and cattle, the oral
26 administration of *P. acnes* with efficacy in humans has not been previously demonstrated. There is a

1 need for a *P. acnes* preparation that can be safely administered to humans for the treatment of viral
2 infections of the respiratory tract.

3 *P. acnes* preparations have been administered primarily through intravenous, intraperitoneal, or
4 intrathoracic routes. However, they may also be administered orally, subcutaneously, or intralesionally
5 depending on the type of infection and the determined dosage. *P. acnes* has been used at higher dose
6 levels in experimental animals to study the release of nitric oxide by cells or the liver and other body
7 tissues, and has been combined with vaccines as an adjuvant for subcutaneous or intramuscular
8 injection. Ethanol-saline suspended preparations of heat-killed *P. acnes* for veterinary use in treating
9 pyoderma, a bacterial infection in dogs, and respiratory infections in horses have been used. However,
10 these preparations had to be administered intravenously in order to be efficacious. In another case, a
11 feed additive consisting of dried *P. acnes* mixed with feed rations was given to baby pigs which
12 subsequently exhibited decreased mortality, increased weight gain and feed conversion. However,
13 optimization of the route of administration for the treatment of dermal warts, tumors, and viral infections
14 of the respiratory tract in humans has not hitherto been conducted.

15 In order to efficaciously administer the *P. acnes* preparation, an optimal mode of inactivation of
16 the *P. acnes* preparation is also needed. Although, suspending the *P. acnes* in an ethanol-saline
17 suspension causes inactivation of *P. acnes*, the presence of ethanol causes discomfort in humans. Thus,
18 there is a need to safely and adequately inactivate the *P. acnes* without any undue loss in activity.
19 Heat-killing is an efficacious method of inactivating *P. acnes*. However, there is a need to develop a
20 method of heat-killing that adequately inactivate the *P. acnes* while maintaining desired levels of activity.

21 **Summary of the Invention**

22 This is an invention to induce regression of a virally induced dermal tumor, especially plantar
23 warts for which painful surgical removal or chemical burning are the most common methods of removal.
24 These alternate methods cause severe pain and limit mobility to a majority of patients receiving these
25 treatments. It is also an invention to treat and hasten recovery from virally induced infection of the
26 respiratory tract using autoclaved *P. acnes* through a novel route of administration, previously not
27 demonstrated in man, that of oral administration.

1 This invention also relates to the preparation of an alcohol-free, terminally sterilized saline-
2 suspended *P. acnes* product that causes the regression of dermal tumors, and plantar warts in humans.
3 Terminal sterilization may be conducted through the process of autoclaving. In another embodiment of
4 the product, an anesthetic such as lidocaine is added to the *P. acnes* product. The invention also
5 relates to a novel intralesional administration of the *P. acnes* product into plantar warts, or other warts
6 caused by the human papilloma virus causing regression of such warts, and the subcutaneous
7 administration of the *P. acnes* product resulting in a systemic regression of warts.

8 **Detailed Description of the Invention**

9 This invention relates to the preparation, administration, and use of an inactivated bacterial
10 product to induce regression of virally induced dermal tumors and warts, and to effectively treat virally
11 induced infections of the respiratory tract. The warts may be plantar, genital, or surface warts
12 anywhere on the skin or mucosal surface of the body, or those caused by the human papilloma virus.

13 The bacteria used for practicing the invention may be selected from the group consisting of
14 *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Propionibacterium avidum*, *Propionibacterium lymphophilum*,
15 *Propionibacterium granulosum*, *Cornynebacterium parvum* or *Arachnia propionica*. Preferably,
16 the bacteria used for practicing the invention are selected from the *Propionibacterium* family. Most
17 preferably, the bacteria used for practicing the invention is *Propionibacterium acnes* (*P. acnes*).
18 Thus, *P. acnes* will be the bacterium referred to throughout the description, although any of the
19 bacterial species claimed can be substituted. However, the statements contained in this description
20 should apply to each of the bacteria claimed unless otherwise indicated, since all of the claimed bacteria
21 are expected to have the same results due to their taxonomic similarity. Although it is now recognized
22 that *Cornynebacterium parvum* (*C. parvum*) is thought to be synonymous with *P. acnes*, it has been
23 included in the list due to the use of the name that still exists in the art.

24 In the present invention, a method for preparing a saline suspension of heat-killed *P. acnes* with
25 demonstration of potency through a laboratory animal challenge model is disclosed. It has been
26 determined that heat-killing, which usually destroys or alters the antigens needed to stimulate the
27 immune responses, does not destroy the potency of the autoclaved *P. acnes* product. Furthermore, as

1 shown in laboratory animal potency tests, the addition of an anesthetic such as lidocaine to the
2 autoclaved *P. acnes* product does not destroy the potency of the *P. acnes* product.

3 *P. acnes* is known to be commercially available in forms such as an injectable solution (e.g.,
4 ImmunoRegulin[®] or EqStim[®] by Neogen Corp. (Lansing, MI)), but it may also be isolated and cultured
5 by known, standard bacterial procedures or obtained from national culture collections. The bacteria
6 used were obtained from ImmunoVet Corp. (Tampa, FL) who produced them under U.S.D.A.
7 Product Code 9350.00. The bacteria may also be obtained from Neogen Corp. (Lansing, MI). The
8 bacteria may be provided wet or dry. A dry form may be prepared by standard drying methods
9 known to a person skilled in the art. such as freeze-drying or evaporation.

10 *P. acnes* may be manufactured by laboratory processes known in the art. *P. acnes* may be
11 isolated and cultured by standard cell culture methods. The *P. acnes* product is prepared by culturing
12 *P. acnes* on solid or in liquid media at a temperature of 36 °C +/- 2 °C for 24 to 192 hours,
13 depending on the culture conditions. *P. acnes* may be grown on plates, e.g., agar plates containing
14 various nutrients, or in bioreactors. The bioreactors include stationary culture flasks, shaker flasks,
15 standard fermentors, hollow fiber reactors, perfusion reactors, plug flow reactors, etc., containing a
16 fermentation broth with nutrients in dissolved form such as glucose, starches, tryptic soy broth,
17 hormones, coenzymes, and optionally serum. *P. acnes* is then collected using standard separation
18 methods such as centrifugation, and tested for purity by immunofluorescence or biochemical testing.

19 The *P. acnes* is dried while subjected to heat sufficient to inactivate and kill it. Heat-killing is
20 preferably conducted by heating the *P. acnes* in a water bath at 74 °C to 90 °C for 60 to 90 minutes.
21 The *P. acnes* is then weighed and suspended in a sterile saline solution at a concentration of .005 to 10
22 mg/ml. The exact concentration is determined by the proposed use of the product, be it the treatment
23 of warts or viral infections of the respiratory tract. The saline solution comprises sodium chloride in a
24 buffer selected from the group consisting of alkaline metal phosphate or citrate buffers, such as sodium
25 phosphate, potassium phosphate, sodium citrate, and potassium citrate, or sodium chloride in dI water.
26 Preferably, the concentration of the sodium chloride is 0.85 % w/v, more preferably the concentration
27 of the sodium chloride is 0.9 % w/v.

1 Optionally, the *P. acnes* may be mixed with carriers and fillers, and brought into the form of a
2 therapeutically enteric pharmaceutical composition. Suitable carriers are sugars including but not limited
3 to lactose, saccharose, mannitol, or sorbitol; cellulose preparations, amino acids such as glycine,
4 binders such as starch pastes that use corn, wheat, rice or potato starch, gelatine, methylcellulose,
5 hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

6 Optionally, an anesthetic may be added to the *P. acnes* product to induce local anesthesia
7 when administered to the patient. Local anesthetics are drugs that block the generation and
8 propagation of impulses in excitable tissues, most notably the spinal cord, spinal nerve roots, and
9 peripheral nerves, but also skeletal muscle, cardiac muscle, and the brain. Preferably, the anesthetic is
10 chosen from the group consisting of aminoamides, such as lidocaine (xylocaine), and aminoesters such
11 as 2-Chloroprocaine. Preferably, the local anesthetic is lidocaine (xylocaine). Preferably, the
12 anesthetic is added to the *P. acnes* preparation to make a final concentration of 0.25 % to 5.0 % v/v,
13 more preferably at a final concentration of 0.5% to 2.5% v/v, and most preferably at a final
14 concentration of 1% to 2% v/v.

15 The *P. acnes* may be lyophilized at any step in the preparation process depending on whether
16 the final pharmaceutical formulation is to be stored as a liquid with stabilizing fillers, or as a lyophilized
17 solid.

18 Once the *P. acnes* product is in the final vial, it is terminally sterilized by heating to 121 °C, for
19 20 minutes, at a pressure of 15 psi.

20 The *P. acnes* product may be tested for potency using standard animal inoculation tests which
21 consists of pre-inoculating the animal with the product, followed by a lethal challenge of a known
22 bacterial pathogen at 1- 7 days which kills at least 75% of the non-inoculated control animals. The
23 dosage units tested are equivalent to 10^9 - 10^{13} *P. acnes*, preferably 10^{10} - 10^{12} *P. acnes*. Lidocaine
24 (xylocaine) is added at a dosage that does not affect the potency of the formulation. The laboratory
25 animal potency tests demonstrated that this local anesthetic does not adversely affect the potency of the
26 product.

1 In the present invention, the autoclaved *P. acnes* product is administered intralesionally or
2 subcutaneously to cause the regression of plantar warts in humans. The *P. acnes* product retains
3 activity once autoclaved and once injected, and may be used with or without the addition of an
4 anesthetic. However, the novel addition of anesthetics like lidocaine to this immune modulating
5 preparation of *P. acnes* retains the potency of the *P. acnes* while preventing pain upon injection. The
6 warts may be plantar, genital, or surface warts located anywhere on the skin or mucosal surface of the
7 body. The subcutaneous route of administration of the *P. acnes* product causes a systemic reaction
8 that causes long-term warts to completely regress. Specifically, the subcutaneous injection of the
9 product into the arm induces the regression of warts located on the hands or feet of the patients
10 receiving the injection. Thus, it has been determined that at doses prescribed for intralesional injections,
11 subcutaneous injection may also be effective in causing a systemic regression of the warts. Multiple
12 injections may be made intralesionally or subcutaneously for the purpose of treating plantar warts.
13 Repeated doses in animals or humans have not resulted in any cumulative toxicity. Since the plantar
14 warts are the most difficult variety of the human papilloma to treat, multiple injections may be required
15 over time. However, a single injection may cause regression of the wart. For the regression of warts,
16 the *P. acnes* is administered at a dose of .001 to 5 mg per dosage, preferably at a dose of .005 to 2.5
17 mg per dosage, and more preferably at a dose of .01 to 1 mg per dosage.

18 The *P. acnes* product may also be used to treat chronic complications of the respiratory tract
19 due to viral or bacterial infections where symptomatic coughs are persistent. The *P. acnes* product is
20 orally administered as a treatment for acute or subacute viral infections of the respiratory tract in
21 people, at a dose range of 0.1 to 10 mg, and more preferably at a dose range of 0.5 to 5 mg. Oral
22 administration of the heat killed, terminally sterilized *P. acnes* saline product will hasten recovery from
23 virally induced infections of the upper and lower respiratory tract. Optionally, an FDA approved
24 natural or synthetic flavoring is added to the final product to make the administered product more
25 palatable. The FDA approved natural flavorings are listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, 21 CFR
26 172.510. The synthetic flavorings are listed in 21 CFR 172.515.

1 The complete disclosure of all patents, patent documents, and publications cited herein are
2 incorporated by reference. The detailed descriptions and examples herein have been given for clarity of
3 understanding only. No unnecessary limitations are to be understood therefrom. The invention is not
4 limited to the exact details shown and described, for variations obvious to one skilled in the art will be
5 included within the invention defined by the claims.

6 Example 1

7 Treatment of sore throat, ear ache and cough by oral administration of autoclaved, heat-killed 8 *P. acnes*.

9 A sterile saline suspension of non-viable *P. acnes*, terminally autoclaved for 15 minutes at 15
10 psi, was orally administered to patients to impede the advancing clinical signs of upper and lower
11 respiratory tract infections, clinically manifested as sore throat, ear ache, and cough.

12 *P. acnes* was orally administered to two patients to treat the onset of symptoms of a sore throat
13 and ear inflammation. In each case, the treatment consisted of 2 ml of a saline suspension of non-
14 viable, heat-killed and terminally sterilized *P. acnes* at a concentration of 0.4 mg per ml. The success
15 of the treatment demonstrates the efficacy of orally administer *P. acnes* to minimize infections of the
16 respiratory tract in humans. Either one dose or more may be used safely to treat the symptoms of
17 disease.

18 The first patient was a 60-year old Caucasian male weighing 190 pounds. The patient was
19 treated with the suspension on two separate occasions. The patient had symptoms of a sore throat and
20 ear inflammation. The treatment was administered orally. The material was held at the back of the
21 mouth for about 1 minute before swallowing. In about 8 to 12 hours following the treatment, the patient
22 felt somewhat flushed, a symptom that could be related to the infection or to immunostimulation. Within
23 24 hours, the onset of the sore throat and the ear infection diminished. Within 2 days, the patient was
24 healthy with no remaining symptoms of the sore throat and ear infection.

25 In October, 1998, the patient displayed symptoms of sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, sore
26 throat, and aching ears. The treatment was administered orally. The material was held at the back of

1 the mouth for about 1 minute before swallowing. Within the following 24 hour period, the patient again
2 noted a slight febrile response. A second dose, similar to the first dose, was administered twenty-four
3 hours following the first dose. No febrile response was observed after this administration. No
4 symptoms of inflammation of the throat and ears were observed after the first day. However, mild
5 coughing and nasal discharge continued on the second day. On the third day, the symptoms began to
6 abate and on the fourth day, they were entirely gone.

7 The second patient was a 32-year old Caucasian female weighing about 140 pounds. The
8 patient had a hoarse voice and complained of an ear ache and sore throat. She was given a similar
9 suspension in the same amount as mentioned above. She did not express any adverse reactions or any
10 symptoms other than those relating to her upper respiratory tract infection. The day following
11 treatment, her throat felt better and within two days thereafter, she was again healthy.

12 This finding demonstrates the efficacy of orally administer *P. acnes* to minimize infections of the
13 respiratory tract in people. Either one dose or more may be used safely to treat the symptoms of
14 disease.

15 Example 2

16 Preparation of *P. acnes*.

17 *P. acnes*, grown on solid or in liquid media at a temperature of 36 °C for 7 days is separated,
18 tested for purity (by immunofluorescence) and/or biochemical testing, dried while subjected to heat
19 sufficient to kill it, weighed, and suspended in sterile saline at the desired concentration. In the final vial,
20 the product is terminally sterilized for 20 minutes at 15 psi. Or the product can be modified by (through
21 sterile filling) the addition of lidocaine at the desired concentration to induce local anesthesia when
22 injected. The product is then tested for potency using the laboratory animal inoculation test which
23 consists of pre-inoculation with the product and followed several days later by a lethal challenge of a
24 known bacterial pathogen which kills at least 75% of the non-inoculated control animals.

25 Example 3

26 Evaluation of the safety of injecting heat-killed *P. acnes* into volunteers with plantar warts.

1 The purpose of this Phase I Safety Study was to evaluate the safety of injecting heat-killed, *P.*
2 *acnes* into volunteers with plantar warts. Two routes of administration were utilized, intralesional and
3 subcutaneous. Two dose levels of experimental product (0.1 mg and 0.2 mg.) were injected. The
4 control group was injected intralesionally with sterile saline at a volume consistent with the 0.2 mg
5 amount of *P. acnes*. Safety parameters were assessed by changes or lack of changes in physical,
6 hematologic, biochemical, and immunologic parameters. The lot # of the Test Article was 022497 and
7 the Placebo was lot #KVK794220. Concentration of *P. acnes* was 0.4 mg. per milliliter. In order to
8 test for reactions resulting in repeated injections, the volunteers received a series of three injections at
9 intervals of one week. The patients were randomized upon entry to the study and the study was
10 placebo controlled and blinded to the patient, but not to the investigator. The patients were monitored
11 for four weeks following the initial injection.

12 Anticipated reactions were monitored along with changes in the blood cells, blood chemistry
13 and in the urine. Provisions were in place to focus on any unexpected adverse reactions. The various
14 systemic events monitored included elevated temperature, headache, muscle pain, weakness, chills,
15 nausea, and at the injection site, pain, swelling, redness and discoloration. These are reported on each
16 patient, grouped by treatment and recorded by severity. A summary by treatment groups of the
17 anticipated reactions by number of patients and severity is provided. Separate summary sheets of the
18 observed hematological, chemical and urine changes are also provided for each patient.

19 In the overall evaluation of the clinical signs designated as anticipated events, in those volunteers
20 who designated the severity as "severe", the total events were ranked in the following order for the
21 combined groups: elevated temperature above 100 °F. (21), pain at the injection site (15), headaches
22 (5), chills (4), muscular pain (4), discoloration (3), weakness (2), nausea (2), swelling (2), and redness
23 (2).

24 Where the anticipated events were designated as "moderate", the events were ranked as
25 follows for the combined groups: temperature between 98.0 and 99.9 °F. (104), pain at the injection
26 site (30), swelling (27), weakness (9), chills (8), headache (7), treatment groups collectively, there were
27 8/30 complete regressions, 6/30 that were reduced in size, 10/30 that were not changed in size, 2/30

1 that were enlarged and 4/30 that were lost to follow-up. In the control group, there were no
2 regressions, no reductions in size, 2/3 that were not changed in size and 1/3 that was enlarged.

3 These studies show that while concentrations below 0.4 mg/ml are adequate, the volumes
4 required for efficacy are subsequently higher. Therefore, the test material should be concentrated
5 above 0.4 mg per milliliter in order to reduce the volume of intralesional injections. Since there were a
6 number of complete regressions in the groups where the material was administered subcutaneously, both
7 intralesional and subcutaneous administration separately, or in combination, are efficacious.

8 Example 4.

9 Clinical Toxicities of *P. acnes* in human subjects.

10 *P. acnes*, manufactured within the State of Florida (ImmunoMed Corporation) has been
11 administered intravenously to 21 cancer patients in a completed Phase I study conducted under Florida
12 law. The patients were comprised of 14 males and 7 females, age 38 to 73 years (median = 56). The
13 dosage per injection ranged from 25 ug to 800 ug, and the total dosage ranged from a low of 50 ug to a
14 high of 8525 ug.

15 A total of 256 injections were administered to these patients, and 44 were associated with
16 toxicity (17.2%). Toxicities reported included chills (24/256 - 9.4%), fever (22/256 - 8.6%), nausea
17 (10/256 = 3.9%), myalgia (4/256 - 1.6%), malaise (2/256 - 0.8%), and lightheadedness (2/256 -
18 0.8%). There was no injection site toxicity reported.

19 In another experiment with *P. acnes*, 3 healthy male volunteers were administered the
20 immunostimulant I.V.. Two received 0.1 mg (0.0012 mg/kg) and the third received 0.2 mg (0.0023
21 mg/kg.). Fever, chills, malaise, lethargy, and slight muscle soreness were experienced by all three
22 individuals beginning 12-18 hours following injection. One individual, who received 0.2 mg, experience
23 slight nausea without vomiting. Symptoms abated within 24 hours after onset. One individual received
24 0.1 mg was administered a second injection of 0.1 mg 27 days after the first injection. Only a slight
25 fever (1°F. increase) was recorded with no other symptomatology.

- 1 Intralesional and subcutaneous injections of the test material have minimally associated
- 2 toxicities. Intravenous administration should have toxicities similar to those reported previously.

1 We claim:

- 2 1. A method of inducing the regression of dermal tumors in humans which comprises the step of
3 administering a bacterial product comprising heat-killed *P. acnes* bacteria selected from the group
4 consisting of *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Propionibacterium avidum*, *Propionibacterium*
5 *lymphophilum*, *Propionibacterium granulosum*, *Corynebacterium parvum* or *Arachnia*
6 *propionica*.
- 7 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the bacterial product that is admininstered comprises heat-killed
8 *Propionibacterium acnes*
- 9 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method induces the regression of dermal tumors caused by
10 the human papilloma virus.
- 11 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product further comprises an anesthetic.
- 12 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of
13 aminoamides and aminoesters.
- 14 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the anesthetic is lidocaine.
- 15 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product further comprises carriers and fillers.
- 16 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the carriers are selected from the group consisting of sugars
17 including but not limited to lactose, saccharose, mannitol, sorbitol, and cellulose preparations.
- 18 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the carriers are selected from the group consisting of amino
19 acids including but not limited to glycine.
- 20 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the fillers are selected from the group consisting of starch
21 pastes that use corn, wheat, rice or potato starch, gelatin, methylcellulose,
22 hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and sodium carboxymethylcellulose.
- 23 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacteria are heat-killed by the process of heating the *P.*
24 *acnes* in a water bath at 74 ° C to 90 ° C for 60 to 90 minutes.

- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product is suspended in a saline solution.
- 2 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the saline solution comprises sodium chloride in dl water.
- 3 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the saline solution comprises sodium chloride in a buffer.
- 4 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the buffer is selected from the group consisting of alkaline
5 phosphates and alkaline citrates.
- 6 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product is administered intralesionally.
- 7 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product is administered subcutaneously.
- 8 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product is administered preferably at .001 to 5 mg
9 per dosage.
- 10 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product is administered more preferably at .005 to
11 2.5 mg per dosage.
- 12 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial product is administered most preferably at .01 to
13 1 mg per dosage.
- 14 21. A method of treating viral infections of the respiratory tract in humans which comprises the step
15 of administering a bacterial product comprising heat-killed *P. acnes* bacteria selected from the group
16 consisting of *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Propionibacterium avidum*, *Propionibacterium*
17 *lymphophilum*, *Propionibacterium granulosum*, *Cornynebacterium parvum* or *Arachnia*
18 *propionica*.
- 19 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the bacterial product comprises heat-killed
20 *Propionibacterium acnes*.
- 21 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the bacterial product further comprises carriers and fillers.
- 22 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the carriers are selected from the group consisting of sugars
23 including but not limited to lactose, saccharose, mannitol, sorbitol, and cellulose preparations.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the carriers are selected from the group consisting of amino
2 acids including but not limited to glycine.

3 26. The method of claim 23, wherein the fillers are selected from the group consisting of starch
4 pastes that use corn, wheat, rice or potato starch, gelatin, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl-
5 cellulose, and sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

6 27. The method of claim 21, wherein the bacteria are heat-killed by the process of heating the *P.*
7 *acnes* in a water bath at 74 °C to 90 °C for 60 to 90 minutes.

8 28. The method of claim 21, wherein the bacterial product is suspended in a saline solution.

9 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the saline solution comprises salts selected from the group
10 consisting of alkaline phosphates and alkaline citrates.

11 30. The method of claim 21, wherein the bacterial product is administered orally.

12 31. The method of claim 21, where the bacterial product is administered with a natural flavoring or
13 artificial flavoring.

14 32. The method of claim 21, wherein the bacterial product is administered preferably at .1 to 10 mg
15 per dosage.

16 33. The method of claim 21, wherein the bacterial product is administered more preferably at 0.5 to
17 5 mg per dosage.

Abstract of the Invention

Heat-killed, terminally sterilized saline suspensions of *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Propionibacterium avidum*, *Propionibacterium lymphophilum*, *Propionibacterium granulosum*, *Corynebacterium parvum*, and *Arachnia propionica* are effective in treating viral infections of the respiratory tract in humans, and to induce the regression of dermal tumors and warts in humans. The potency of a saline suspension of heat-killed, terminally sterilized saline suspension of *Propionibacterium acnes* (*P. acnes*) was demonstrated through a laboratory animal challenge model. The *P. acnes* product is administered orally for the purpose of preventing or treating viral infections of the respiratory tract in man. The *P. acnes* preparation is intralesionally administered into dermal tumors, warts such as plantar warts, or other warts in people caused by the human papilloma virus, to cause regression of such dermal tumors and warts. The subcutaneous route of administration of the *P. acnes* product causes a systemic reaction that causes long-term warts to completely regress. Anesthetics such as Lidocaine may be added to the *P. acnes* product to prevent pain upon injection of this immune modulating preparation, while retaining the potency of the *P. acnes* product. Dose ranges have been established for the oral administration of the *P. acnes* product to treat viral infections, and for the subcutaneous and intralesional administration of the *P. acnes* product to treat dermal tumors and warts.